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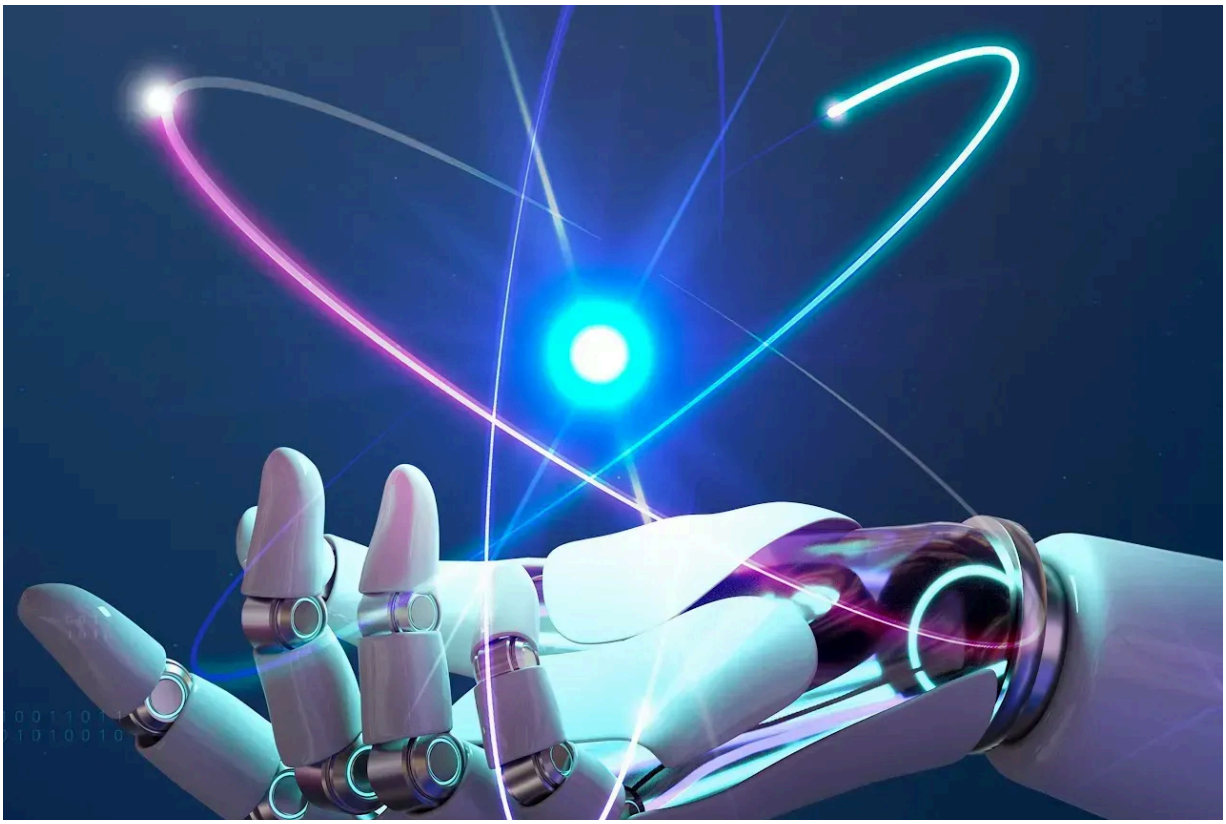
OPINION

Jenks Science and Tech Talks discuss AI topics

RON LATANISION | JENKS SCIENCE & TECH TALKS and JOHN BROWN | JENKS SCIENCE & TECH TALKS

March 13, 2026 . 10:00 AM — 4 min read



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The AI bubble myth – intelligence incorporated and the global race

On Feb. 13, a member of the International Hall of Fame of Women in Technology, Dr. Jennie Hwang, added another dimension to our discussion of AI. Many of us will remember the "dot com" bubble of the late 1990s and its collapse early in 2000.

The current question "Is AI a bubble?" has become a pervasive inquiry in recent months across global business circles and broader society. This presentation moved beyond market sentiment to analyze the technical foundations that render this era's "boom" structurally distinct.

Adopting a holistic and systematic lens, Hwang explored the six pillars of this new global reality and the critical component technologies propelling them forward.

The session further illuminated the potential trajectories of AI, offering nuanced perspectives into the forces shaping its evolution and the escalating global race for Intelligence Incorporated.

Hwang's career spans over 40 years of global-trotting experience across technology, manufacturing, and governance. She has resolved mission-critical challenges in innovation, manufacturing, and product reliability for the electronic/microelectronic packaging and Surface Mount Technology manufacturing – most notably for flagship defense programs such as the F-22 Raptor.

Hwang has served as the co-chair of the DoD/National Academies' Artificial Intelligence Committee and the Chair of NSF's National AI Institute Adult Learning review panel.

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She has held senior executive positions with Lockheed Martin Corp. and CEO of International Electronic Materials Corp., among others. She is also an invited distinguished adjunct Professor of Engineering School of Case Western Reserve University and serves on the University's Board of Trustees.

An author of 10 internationally used textbooks and over 750 editorials/publications, Hwang is a featured speaker for global forums, including the keynote university commencements, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on emerging technologies, and the DoD Federal Women's Program.

She has received numerous honors/ awards, including the YWCA Women of Achievement Award, an Industry Week "R&D Stars to Watch," and served on the Board of NYSE Fortune 500 companies and various civic, government, and university boards and committees.

Her academic foundation includes the Harvard Business School Executive Program and four academic degrees (Ph.D., M.S., M.S., B.S.) in Materials Engineering, Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Liquid Crystal Science, respectively.

AI and the future of scientific research

On Feb. 27, Professor Ju Li, MIT's School of Engineering Carl Richard Soderberg Professor of Power Engineering, discussed the impact of artificial intelligence and the self-driving lab on the practice of research and development, in particular, clean energy research.

Rapid growth in modeling, experiment and reasoning capabilities, such as universal neural network interatomic potential (UNIP), large language model-based hypothesis generation, robotic high-throughput experimentation, and knowledge-based Bayesian optimization (k active learning algorithms, could usher in an era of "mass production of

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science," which is in keeping with a core objective of reducing the time required and cost of the development and integration of new materials into advance engineering systems.

The ethics of AI and sociopolitical consequences are fundamental challenges going forward.[2]

[1]Autonomous experiments using active learning and AI, Nature Reviews Materials 8 (2023) 563564; "A multimodal robotic platform for multi-element electrocatalyst discovery," *Nature* 647 (2025) 390-396

[2] https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ynexs.2025.100117

Li has held faculty positions at the Ohio State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and is presently a chaired professor at MIT. He has joint appointments in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

His group (http://Li.mit.edu) investigates the mechanical, electrochemical and transport behaviors of materials as well as novel means of energy storage and conversion.

Li is a recipient of the 2005 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the 2006 Materials Research Society Outstanding Young Investigator Award, and the TR35 award from Technological Review.

He was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2014, a Fellow of the Materials Research Society in 2017 and a Fellow of AAAS in 2020.

Li is the chief organizer of MIT A+B Applied Energy Symposia that aim to develop solutions to global climate change challenges with "A-Action before 2040" and "B-Beyond 2040" technologies.

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Upcoming Wilson Forum presentations

On March 13, Wilson Forum Historian Vincent Dixon will talk about The Massachusetts 250th Anniversary and Celebrations and this presentation will be followed on March 27 when Aaron Pressman of The Boston Globe will speak on Technology and Innovation.

All Wilson Science & Technology Forum presentations are recorded and can be streamed free on demand at the Wilson Forum's website, https://jenksst.blogspot.com/

WinCAM broadcasts recordings of Forum presentations at 3 pm on Mondays and Fridays. For the schedule, go to https://wincam.org/schedule/education/ and search for "Wilson." Likewise, our YouTube channel includes our video presentations: https://www.youtube.com/@wilsonsciencetechnologyfor3746/videos .

The Wilson Forum's meetings are via Zoom, at 10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, with the exception of July and August.

To learn of upcoming Forum speakers, you can check the Jenks Center's website https://www.jenkscenter.org/ (events > daytime > Wilson Forum).

Better yet, you can receive advance notification of upcoming talks by emailing a request to be added to the Forum's roster to rlatanision@alum.mit.edu.

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OPINION

Winchester Beat looks at override in new Perspectives show

The following was submitted by Winchester Beat: Winchester Beat announced a new program this week called Winchester Perspectives. The first episode focuses on the proposed override and the State of the Town (SOTT) process, featuring a conversation with SOTT members Paras Bhayani, Stefanie Mnayarji, and Derek Ross. “The idea is

March 18, 2026

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Thank you, Winchester, for your donations

Dear Editor, I am writing to thank the residents of Winchester for demonstrating their community spirit and commitment to sustainability by donating nearly 160,000 pounds of clothing and household goods to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries in 2025. Goodwill is a community-based nonprofit that relies on these donations to support

March 10, 2026

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OPINION

Civics: The operating manual For government

Civics, is a vital set of concepts, that everyone — students, teachers, voters, and actually, all individuals in society — should know, and in one way or another, participate in. Civic Learning Week — from Monday, March 9 through Friday, March 13, 2026 — is an opportunity to learn, reflect, and share knowledge of

VINCENT DIXON | A HISTORY OF

March 9, 2026

OPINION

Salvation Army thanks Winchester for Red Kettle Campaign support

To the Editor: As we begin 2026, The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the residents, businesses, and volunteers in the Winchester area who supported the 2025 Red Kettle Campaign. Your generosity and kindness during the holiday season brought comfort, hope, and tangible support

February 10, 2026

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Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

NEIL ZOLOT | CORRESPONDENT

March 26, 2026

John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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